

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the filling of wetlands and streams in Chesterfield County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: December 15, 2021 to January 14, 2022

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Douglas R. Sowers; 1475 Oakbridge Court, Powhatan, VA 23139; VWPP No. 20-1093

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Douglas R. Sowers has applied for a new permit for the Rountrey Section 9 project. The project is located west of Woolridge Road (Route 668), east of Otterdale Road (Route 687), north of Genito Road (Route 604), and south of Old Hundred Road (Route 652). The permit will allow the applicant to fill surface water wetlands and streams for the construction of a residential community to include 113 residential lots on 64.8 acres, two stormwater management ponds, necessary roadways and utility infrastructure. The proposed activity would affect 3.40 acres of palustrine forested wetlands and 170 linear feet of stream bed. The activity proposed in the permit will affect unnamed tributaries in the Swift Creek watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To compensate for the permanent wetland impacts, the applicant has demonstrated that 1.34 wetland mitigation credits were purchased for impacts that were not completed under previous VWP permits WP4-05-1227 and WP4-08-0411. Therefore, in combination with the conceptual mitigation plan below, 1.34 wetland mitigation credits have been applied to satisfy the compensatory mitigation plan for this permit. Additionally, the applicant will create an off-site permittee responsible mitigation project named "Briery Creek Conceptual Mitigation Plan" in the Briery Creek watershed, which includes the restoration/creation, enhancement, and preservation of 5.72 acres of wetlands. To compensate for permanent stream bed impacts, the applicant will purchase 146 USM stream mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank in the same or adjacent watershed. If sufficient mitigation bank credits are not available, the permit allows the purchase of stream credits from an in-lieu fee fund. DEQ's preliminary decision is to issue the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named below or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed below.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Bryan Jones; Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality, Piedmont Regional Office, 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia, 23060; Tel: (804) 712-4001; bryan.jones@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (804) 698-4178.